

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4890

EXDIS

FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MEETING WITH UANC DISSIDENTS

1. GRAHAM AND I WERE CALLED ON AT MARIMBA HOUSE BY THE FOUR UANC DISSIDENTS RESIDING INSIDE RHODESIA WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN "EXPELLED" FROM THE PARTY BY THE INTER PROVINCIAL MEETING HELD LAST SUNDAY, AUGUST 13. THEY ARE REV. ARTHUR KANODEREKA, DR. J. KUREWA, MR. Z. MUCHENJE, AND REV. MAX CHIGWIDA. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY MR. NDEMERA WHO HAD BEEN THE ORGANIZING SECRETARY WITH THE PARTY WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED A MONTH PREVIOUSLY. ALL WERE ARTICULATE AND INTELLIGENT, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT THE MOST FORCEFUL LEADERS.

2. MOST OF THE CONVERSATION RELATED TO THE ALL-PARTIES MEETING. KANODEREKA SAID THEY HAD BECOME CONVINCED THAT THE WAR COULD NOT BE ENDED WITHOUT AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING. HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN CHAIRMAN OF THE CONTACT
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COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH TRYING TO CONVINCE THE GUERRILLAS TO COME "ON SIDES." HE SAID 99 PERCENT OF THE "BOYS IN THE BUSH" HAD REFUSED AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY WHATSOEVER OF THEIR CHANGING SIDES AT THIS POINT. THEREFORE, A MEETING WAS NECESSARY.

3. THE FIVE SAID THAT THERE WAS OVERWHELMING POPULAR

SUPPORT FOR SUCH A MEETING. IT WAS ONLY THE FUNCTIONARIES APPOINTED BY SOME OF THE LEADERS (MUZOREWA AND TO A LESSER EXTENT, SITHOLE), WHO FEARED FOR THEIR OWN POSITIONS AND WERE THEREFORE OPPOSING A MEETING. THEY APPEALED TO US TO NAME A PLACE AND A DATE. SUCH WAS THE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR A MEETING, THEY SAID, THAT ALL WOULD ACCEPT AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE BISHOP WOULD GO ALONG BECAUSE HE COULD NOT RESIST THE PRESSURE. THEY ASKED WHETHER OTHER PARTIES WOULD BE INVITED SUCH AS THE (LIBERAL WHITE) NUF. WE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE.

4. SO FAR AS THEIR OWN PLANS WERE CONCERNED, THE GROUP SAID THAT THEY STILL CONSIDERED THEMSELVES MEMBERS OF THE UANC. ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN EXPELLED ON A DE FACTO BASIS, THEY HAD NOT YET RECEIVED FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF THAT FROM THE PARTY. THEY HAD NOT LOOKED BEYOND THAT SITUATION. THEY HOPED THAT A PARTY CONGRESS WOULD BE HELD, BUT NOT IF IT SIMPLY SERVED AS A RUBBER STAMP AND DID NOT PERMIT AN OPPORTUNITY TO AIR THE DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS AMONG PARTY OFFICIALS. GENERALLY, THEY GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF ACCEPTING THE SITUATION RATHER THAN BEING READY TO ADOPT SOME VIGOROUS COUNTER-MEASURES.
EDMONDSON

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